

Example questions to ask in a small group

The questions are meant to help the presenter rethink their work, and if possible, take another step forward in their understanding of the passage. As much as possible, encourage one another to support answers from the text.

- You mentioned that you think a tonal emphasis would be placed on _____, and yet it doesn't seem like that influenced your understanding of the central theme. Can you explain that? If he would emphasize it in person, how does it contribute to the main point?
- Can you explain to us more fully why you think there is a tonal emphasis where you did? What textual support would you point to?
- You mention that this passage contributes to this book by _____. What do you understand the main point of this book to be? Can you show us where you get that from?
- Did you notice that the word/phrase _____ is repeated in this passage? Do you think that is intentional for the reader's ear? How do you think that might relate to the structure?
- In your structure you are making the case that the author spends the largest amount of time talking about _____. Do you think that is significant? Why do you think he does that? Is he doing it more as set up or more to draw attention to this point for emphasis?
- This text has some difficult theological questions/issues in it. Do you think your framework helped you or got in the way as you tried to understand the passage?
- You mentioned that someone's framework could tempt them to misread _____. You then go on to say that the central theme makes the opposite point. However, what sort of textual support can you give for this from this passage, or are you leaning more on your framework to make the opposite point?
- As I read the passage, verse _____ seems fairly significant to me. Can you explain how you think this contributes to the main point?
- You mentioned that you think the author is displaying his emphasis to be _____. However, it doesn't seem to show up in your central point. Can you explain why that is?
- You mention your theme as _____. However, when you come to application, it doesn't seem like it is flowing from that theme? Can you explain to us how you came up with your application?
- As you read this passage do you get the sense that the author is aiming for individualized application or is this more of a corporate application? Where could you show us in the text to support your answer?